

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, July 11. 1706.

TWO Sorts of People speak plain Truth, and scorn to flatter, *Viz.*

Those, who being above common Resentments, are not aw'd by the Power or Interests of Persons or things; and those, who at the bottom of Fortune's deepest Abyss, lie in the Dungeon of Mischiefe, and can sink no lower.

Which of these Sorts I pretend to rank with, any Man may judge; but let it be which way it will, it entitles me to a good reason, for what I have always assum'd as Part of my Character; that I dare speak Truth, let the Consequence be what it will, and that all Manner and Kinds of Truth, let them regard, what Affairs, Persons, Times and Circumstances soever.

Truth shall never be out of Season with me, nor the highest Station of any Man

protect his Character, from my giving the World every Article, in which I think the publick Good makes it necessary to tell the Truth.

This Introduction I thought more needful than ordinary at this Time; that being to speak to the Advantage of some People in Power; neither they nor other Men may charge me with the meanness of Flattery, a Baseness so rank, so fullsome, so despicable, and so much below a wise Man, that 'tis equally scorn'd by all them whose Characters have any real Merit to support a thing embrac'd by none but Men that want Foundation for their good Names; none but Fools offer it, none but Knaves accept it.

The Men of Fame, then of this Age, and to whose Characters this Paper shall bear Testimony, are not at all oblig'd to me,

me, but to their own Merit—While I raise Eacomiuns on their Conduct, I only pay a just Debt to Truth—and let the World know, that true Merit will force Acknowledgments; the World must commend those Men that serve them faithfully: Natural Duty exacts the Praise of doing well, and they are not at all beholding to the Concessions, Men make of their Performance.

Thus from a Station too low to fear, and past Hope of rising; I do Justice to the real Merit and Conduct of the present Managers of England's Glory, without the least Thought of Reward or indeed of Desert; and condemning the Vanity of absurd Flatteries, as a Dirt too nauseous for me to meddle with.

I have given the World some Hints of a certain Gentleman, that would not sign a County Address from *Hertfordshire*; but the Story being something dark to those, that have not heard it out; I think, it would seem something imperfect without representing it whole to the World, as follows.

The Gentlemen of *Hertfordshire* being met to make their Congratulations to her Majesty, on Account of the late glorious Successes of her Arms: a very hearty and loyal Address in the following Form was drawn up, and offer'd at the Meeting to be sign'd, in order to its being carry'd up to the Queen.

To the Queen's most excellent Majesty.

The Humble Address of the Lord Lieutenant *Custos Rotulorum*, Deputy Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace for the County of *Hertford*, upon the Battle of *Barnet*.

May it please your Majesty,

WE beg leave in the humblest Manner to assure your Majesty, that our Hearts are filled with unexpressible Joy; that God Almighty hath blessed your Majesty's Armies, and those of your Allies with such a glorious and unparalled Victory over the common Enemy of the Peace, and Tranquillity of Europe; and we would not lose any time in joyning with all true English-men, to congratulate your Majesty on this most happy Occasion.

We can't, Madam, but admire at your great Wisdom in choosing such a General, who by his Conduct and Courage abroad, and such Ministers who by those prudent Advice and Counsells at home, have shewed that they can never be in any other Interest, but that of your Majesty and your People.

When it came to a certain Gentleman to set his Hand to it, he stood up and made a Speech to the rest, express'd his Willingness to congratulate the QUEEN, and to express his Joy at the Victories and Successes of the Allies; but he did not approve of making Addresses to the Subjects, who had but done their Duty, or to that Effect; and concluded, that he would sign that Part of the Address, but not that which related to the Duke of *Marlborough*, and offer'd to set his Hand above the last Paragraph.

This is the Proceeding which I am to take notice of—And tho' a certain foul Author, who raves at the exposing these Truths to the World, calls this Paper and the *Observer* Libells upon the Duke of *Marlborough*. I assure him, I should not have entred upon these things to answer him; whose railing Accusation merits nothing but Silence—But it cannot but be needful to let the World see, who are indeed the known Maligners of the Glory of her Majesties faithful Servants, and that have the Brightness of their great Actions.

On this head, therefore I must have the Liberty to speak plain, and let it be a Libel on who it will, I am thoughtless of the Event.

And first; I must acknowledge Mr. C—r's Argument is good, if taken in general; but then it stands as firm against paying any Acknowledgment to the QUEEN, as to the Duke of *Marlborough*, and the Ministry.

Let us therefore examine it to the bottom—The only Subject of real Acknowledgment, and to whom Praise, Thanks, and all the Effluxes of Joy should be directed; is God himself the Fountain of Glory, the Lord of Victory, the Author of Prudence, and the Director of Armies—He gives the Race, whether to the swift or the slow;

slow; the Battle, whether to the weak or the strong. 'Tis he makes the haughty *French*, that insulted *Europe*, and over-run the Nations, flye before us; now even when we do not pursue; 'tis he fills our Gazetts with Wonders, and forms the Complication of Circumstances, which make the World amaz'd, and the Nations look as if they dream't.

Thus speaking, Kings, Queens, Nations and Governments are all but Agents, Her Majesty is but the Instrument, nay and equally too, even with her Subjects; who every one acting vigorously in their Station, are Tools asking *Pardon for the Simile*, in the Hands of the great Worker, and Sovereign Director of the War. Nay, and such Tools too, as whenever his Wisdom shall think fit to direct his Power, he can at his Pleasure lay by, do his Work as effectually by other, meaner or unqually'd, or entirely without any Instruments at all.

If then the Sovereign Agency be primarily recogniz'd, all Praise, all Acknowledgment to Instruments stands upon an equal Foot; and let us next examine, upon what Foot we address the QUEEN; and if I am right, 'tis this one only, viz. as her Majesty is honour'd by the universal Lord, as the Instrument in his Hand, and which he has singled out to do these great and wonderful things by, and this is a great Branch of her Majesty's Glory; a Glory I presume to say, I believe her Majesty is not ashamed of, and a Glory which entitles Her Majesty to the sincerest Joy and most affectionate Addresses of all her Subjects; and upon this Score, I think our Congratulations are most just; as a shewing to the World, how it shall be done to those, whom Heaven it self delights to Honour.

If then her Majesty being honoured with the Agency of Heaven's glorious Designs, entitles her to the Congratulations of her Subjects, so does it at the same time in their degree, entitle her Counsellors, Ministers, and Generalls, and every one by whose Wisdom, Fidelity, and Prudence her Majesty is assisted in those great things, to their Share in those Acclamations, and Acknowledgments.

Has her Majesty been the Instrument in

the Hand of Providence, to bring to pass the Wonders of this Day, at which we rejoice and are glad; the Duke of *Marlborough*, the Earls of *Peterborough* and *Galloway*, the Admiralls, Treasurers, Secretaries, and every one in their Station, have in their degrees been Instruments in her Majesty's Hand, enabling her to bring those great things to pass——And merit a just Share in our Joy, in our Acknowledgments and in our Congratulations.

To say, they have done but their Duty, and Merit no Thanks, is a Satyr upon the QUEEN; For no Creature can do more than Duty, in what Station soever plac'd.

Have they done their Duty, Gentlemen? thank them then, and give them Praise——You would have given your Hands to the hanging them for Traytors, if they had fail'd of their Duty; nay, and some are forward enough to do so as it is; but Praise is a Debt of Honour to those, who faithfully discharge the Trust and Duty of their Employment.

These are the Men, Heaven and the QUEEN have delighted to honour, and they are an Honour to the QUEEN that employs them; they load her Head with Triumph, her Hands with Strength, and are a Glory to her Reign, as well as a Testimony to her Wisdom in choosing them.

'Tis the Honour of a Prince to have faithful Servants, great Generals, and wise Counsellors; for as a certain known Man of Wit said of Queen *Elizabeth*, there's none but a wise Prince has wise Counsellors.

Upon the whole, I would have had Mr. C—— have set his Hand to the Address of *Hertfordshire*, above the Paragraph acknowledging the Service of the Ministry, that the Nonsense, as well as the Spleen of a turn'd out Party, might have been shown to the World together.

For has her Majesty been enabled to gain these Victories, has it not been by the faithful Agency of the Ministry? Who procur'd the Supplies to be ready in *February*? who has rais'd the Credit to such a Head? as to be able to raise what Sums are wanted—WHEN THEY ARE WANTED?

Had your Taxes been ungranted till the middle of *June*; Had your deficient Funds and declining Credit left you uncertain;

Had

Had your Money been unrais'd in June, how would you have had two Victories by the Beginning of May? unless as in King *William's* Time, you would expect the Armies should fight without their Pay, and the Ships go to Sea without Provisions.

The Prudence therefore of the QUEEN is illustrated in the Choice of her Ministry, and their faithful Discharge of the Trust, as it is their Duty, so it is their Praise; and entitles them to the Love, Affection and Honour of their Country, and nothing but Envy, Ambition and Party rage, can rob them of that which is so much their Due; and is the great Encouragement to Men of Trust and Honour, to exert themselves; for what can be expected from Men, that know, they serve an ungrateful and unthankful People?

I could add here, the Ministry at home have done, as much as merit the Congratulation as those abroad—And the Victory at home is equally glorious both to the QUEEN and to her Servants as that abroad, and merits as much our acknowledgments, but of this by it self—I believe this Victory at Home, is one Reason why some Gentlemen are less pleas'd with the Victories Abroad—Together with the Shame some Men formerly in high Station have reason to take, to see how, that they call'd AN IMPRACTICABLE WAR; and which under their Ministry really was so, is managed, since *England* had the good Fortune to get out of their Hands.

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